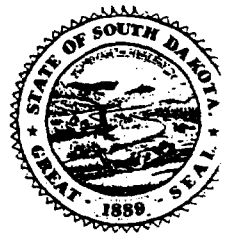




South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



State Capitol Building, 500 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

September 28, 2001

Ms. Magalie R. Salas
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th St. S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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Ms. Irene Flannery
Universal Service Administrative Company
2120 L Street N.W., Suite 600
Washington, DC 20037

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45/ CC Docket No. 00-256, Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256, FCC 01-157, Released May 23, 2001

Annual State Certification of Support for Rural Carriers

Dear Ms. Salas and Ms. Flannery:

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) hereby states that the following rural incumbent local exchange carrier and/or eligible telecommunications carrier within its jurisdiction has been certified to receive support pursuant to 47 CFR §§ 54.301, 54.305, and/or 54.307 and /or part 36, subpart F. The carrier listed below filed a request for certification with the Commission which supports its affirmations that all federal high-cost support provided to it will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. The Commission has granted certification to the following company:

Red River Telecom, Inc.

Also enclosed is the Order Granting Certification to the above-referenced rural incumbent local exchange carrier and/or eligible telecommunications carrier. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Sincerely,

James A. Burg
James A. Burg
Chairman

Pam Nelson
Pam Nelson
Commissioner

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

OCT 1 2001

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IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST OF RED) ORDER GRANTING
RIVER TELECOM, INC. FOR CERTIFICATION) CERTIFICATION
REGARDING ITS USE OF FEDERAL)
UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT) TC01-152

On May 23, 2001, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released an Order concerning the federal universal service support mechanism for rural carriers.¹ This Order (hereafter referenced as the "Fourteenth Report and Order"), in part, codifies at 47 § C.F.R. 54.314, a requirement for States to provide a certification regarding federal universal service support that is received by rural incumbent local exchange carriers and/or eligible telecommunications carriers providing service in rural service areas. Pursuant to such rule, a state that desires rural carriers within its jurisdiction to receive future federal universal service support must file an annual certification with the FCC and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) stating that federal high cost support provided to such carriers within that State will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. This certification requirement applies to various categories of federal universal service support, including support provided pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.301, 54.305, and/or 54.307, and/or 47 C.F.R. Part 36, Subpart F (high-cost loop support, local switching support, safety net additive support, and safety valve support). Support provided under these FCC rule provisions will only be made available in the future if the State Commission files the requisite certification pursuant to § 54.314.

The certification required for rural carriers to receive federal universal support for all four quarters during calendar year 2001 is currently due to be filed with the FCC and USAC on or before October 1, 2001. The certification may be presented to these entities in the form of a letter from the State Commission. The letter must identify which carriers in the state are eligible to receive federal support during the 12-month period and must certify that the carriers listed will only use the support for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

On September 26, 2001, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a filing from Red River Telecom, Inc. (Company) regarding its Request for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support. The purpose of this filing was to provide information constituting Company's plan for the use of its federal universal service support and to otherwise verify that Company will use all

¹CC Docket No. 96-45, CC Docket No. 00-256, Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256, FCC 01-157, Released May 23, 2001.

federal universal service support received in a manner that is consistent with the federal universal service provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 254. As a part of its plan, Company listed estimates of the support it expected to receive from USAC. An Affidavit was attached to the Request for Certification.

On September 26, 2001, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 27, 2001, to interested individuals and entities. No parties sought intervention.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of September 28, 2001, the Commission considered this matter.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-31, and 47 U.S.C. § 254. The Commission found that the Company is eligible to receive federal support as it states it will only use the support for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. The Commission unanimously voted to approve Company's Request for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Company is eligible to receive federal support as it states it will only use the support for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. It is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission approves Company's Request for Certification Regarding Its Use of Federal Universal Service Support.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 28th day of September, 2001.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.	
By:	<u>Maureen Kaelke</u>
Date:	<u>9/28/01</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner